

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217478

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 2923 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA
ATHENS LONDON NICOSIA SEP 08.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2923

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, PORG, CY, TU

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON CYPRUS

1. SECURITY COUNCIL HELD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE WHOLE THURSDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 8. SC PRESIDENT VON WECHMAR (FRG) ACKNOWLEDGED TABLING OF DRAFT RESOLUTION BY BENIN, MAURITIUS AND PANAMA, BUT SAID THAT HIS SOUNDINGS INDICATED THAT A NUMBER OF MEMBERS WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT THIS DRAFT. EH EXPRESSED HOPE THAT COUNCIL WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO SEEK A DRAFT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL MEMBERS. THIS SENTIMENT ECHOED WITH VARYING DEGREES OF ENTHUSIASM BY ALL REPRESENTATIVES WHO SPOKE. SPONSORS AGREED NOT TO PRESS THEIR RESOLUTION TO AN IMMEDIATE VOTE, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THEIR RESOLUTION MIGHT BE "BURIED" OR WEAKENED, AND URGED THAT THE COUNCIL NOT DELAY UNDULY A DECISION. IN SUMMARY-
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PAGE 02 STATE 217478

MING UP, VON WECHMAR SUGGESTED THAT INDIAN AMBASSADOR JAIPAL CONTINUE HIS PRIVATE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON A TEXT. IN TURN, JAIPAL ASKED BENIN AND CANADA TO HELP HIM, WHICH THEY RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO DO.

2. TIMING OF NEXT FORMAL COUNCIL MEETING LEFT UP IN THE AIR. VON WECHMAR CLEARLY PREFERS MONDAY AFTERNOON, BUT

SOVIET AMBASSADOR PRESSED HIM TO ACCOMODATE CYPRIOT FONMIN CHRISTOPHIES' DESIRE TO SPEAK TO COUNCIL TOMORROW. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, CHRISTOPHIDES IS FEELING POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM HOME OVER DESULTORY PACE OF COUNCIL PRECEEDINGS AND WANT A MEETING TOMORROW IN ORDER TO GIVE AT LEAST THE IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT. THUS COUNCIL MAY MEET FRIDAY AFTERNOON TO HEAR CHRISTOPHIDES.

3. EARLIER IN THE DAY THE WESTERN FIVE MET AND ACHIEVED A FRAGILE CONSENSUS ON OUR IMMEDIATE TACTICS. FRANCE ANNOUNCED IT WOULD HAV TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF BENIN DRAFT, BUT OTHER FOUR WESTERNS HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSTAIN. FURTHERMORE, SHOULD SO-CALLED BARTON-JAIPAL EXT TO BE PUT TO A VOTE, SAME FOUR SAID THEY WOULD ABSTAIN--EVEN BARTON. FRANCE HELPFULLY AGREED TO PERMIT "EXPERTS" OF FIVE TO IDENTIFY MINIMUM ELEMENTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT ALL FIVE TO SUPPORT A RESOLUTION, ANDTHIS THEY HAVE DONE. FRENCH WILL URGE BENIN ET AL TO ACCEPT MODIFICATIONS OF TEXT IN INTEREST OF WIDER SUPPORT. FIVE WILL NOT CIRCULATE ANOTHER DRAFT, BUT HAVE AGREED INDIVIDUALLY TO SEEK COMPROMISE LANGUAGE BETWEEN BENIN DRAFT AND MOST RECENT WESTERN DRAFT WHICH WOULD MET OUR MINIMUM CONDITIONS.

4. SHOULD NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN AND THE BENIN DRAFT OR ONE CLOSE TO IT COME TO A VOTE NEXT WEEK, ITS SPONSORS CAN BE SURE OF ONLY EIGHT VOTES: BENIN, MAURITIUS, PANAMA, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 217478

FRANCE, USSR, INDIA, VENEZUELA, AND ROMANIA. SWING DELEGATION WILL BE CHINA, WHIC IN RATHER GUARDED COMMENTS SO FAR HAS LAID CONSIDERABLE STRESS ON DESIRABILITY OF ACHIEVING BROAD AGREEMENT IN COUNCIL. MANY HERE, HOWEVER, DOUBT CHINA WOULD DISTANCE ITSELF FROM MAIN BODY OF NON-ALIGNED IN MANNER WHICH WOULD RESULT IN FAILURE OF RES.

5. TURKS ARE ADAMANTLY STICKING TO THEIR POSITION OPPOSING ANY RESOLUTION, AND ARE REFUSING TO DISCUSS IMPROVEMENTS IN NUMEROUS DRAFT IN CIRCULATION. AMBASSADOR TURKMEN TODAY TOLD AMBASSADOR LEONARD THAT, IF COUNCIL MUST PASS A RESOLUTION, PRINCIPAL INTEREST OF TURKEY WOULD BE THAT IT WOULD BE ON WHICH THE UNITED STATES WOULD ABSTAIN. WE HAVE STAYED IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH TURKMAN AND HE UNDERSTAND THE PRESSURES ON US WHICH MAY CAUSE US IN THE END TO SUPPORT A RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO OUR WESTERN COLLEAGUES.

YOUNG UNQUOTE VANCE

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